



# The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
Department of Texas  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume iii, Number 6, June 2018

## Rattling Sabres by Glen E. Zook

I keep trying to get the publishing of The Texas Union Herald back on track, being by, at the latest, the first week of the month. Unfortunately, things just keep happening that throw a monkey wrench into the situation!

Unfortunately, as we grow older, things like deaths and funerals happen more and more. My wife is the "baby" of her family, being 11-years younger than her eldest sister. Also, her father died when she was just 9-years old and her mother never remarried. Her eldest sister got married shortly after their father's death and, after the sister started having children, my wife spent a lot of time babysitting and traveling with her sister and her husband. The husband then became an almost 2<sup>nd</sup> father to her. In fact, it was he who walked her down the aisle when we were married just over 53-years ago.

Unfortunately, he died a couple of weeks ago in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. He was just a couple of weeks short of his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday! That was the main thing that delayed this issue of the newsletter. However, things are now starting to get back on track.

I got an E-Mail from Brother Jeffry Burden about the reforming of the Army of the Tennessee organization asking if any Camp #18 members were interested in joining. However, he really did not have much information on the organization and forwarded my return E-Mail to the person who is really in charge of that organization. Unfortunately, I have received nothing further on the organization so such will have to wait until that information is on hand at a later date.

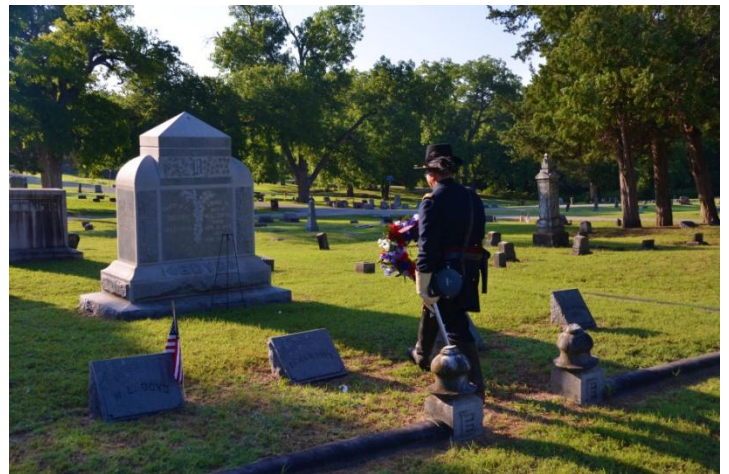
The 2018 Department of Texas encampment will be held in Waco, at the Texas Rangers Museum, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. If you are planning on attending, immediately get that fact known to Brother Don Gates so that he can have your official credentials available at the meeting. Otherwise, you will not be able to vote, etc.

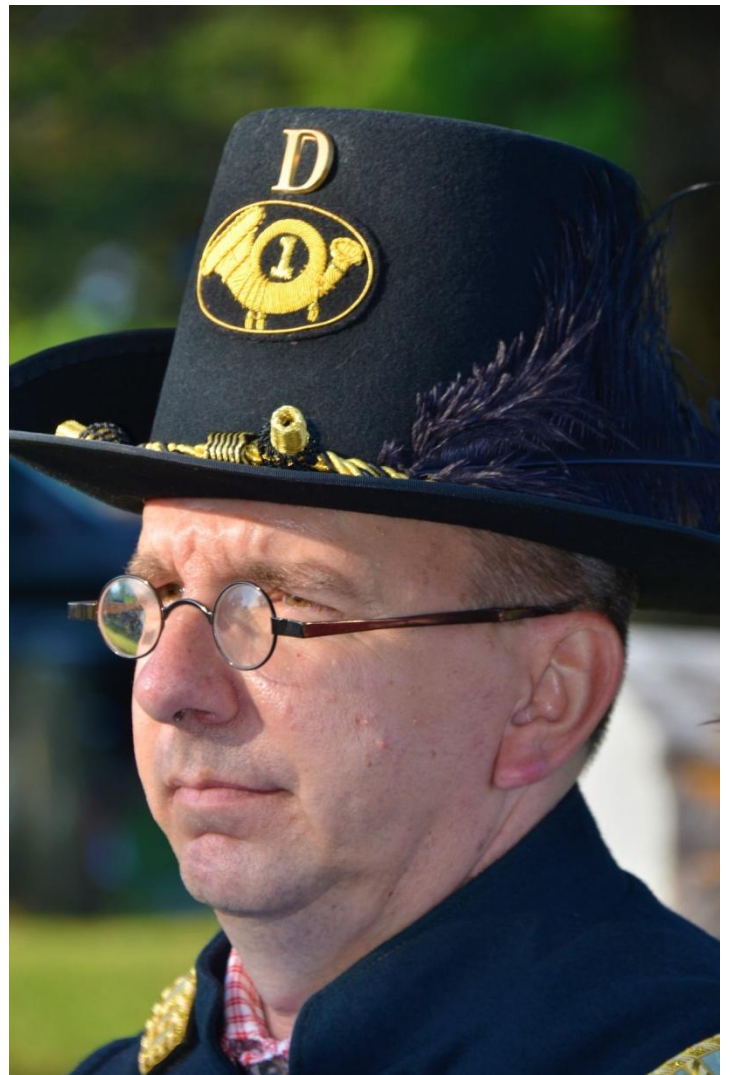
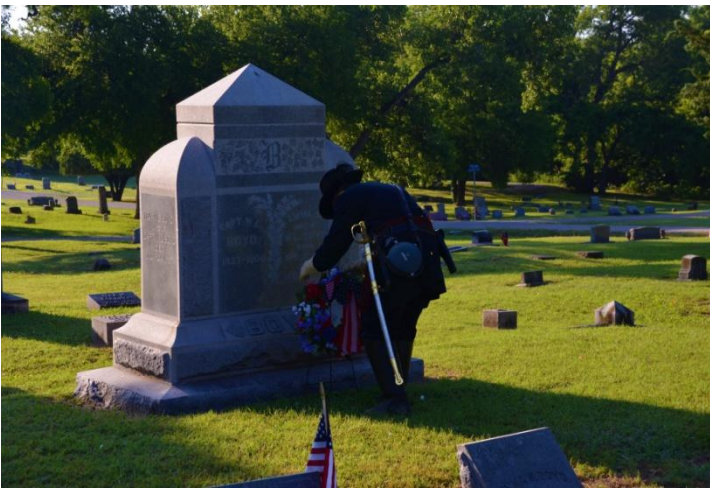
There are a number of photographs taken at the 2018 Memorial Day celebration at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney in this issue. Of course, I am always in need of photographs of anything having to do with the SUVCW or with anything having to do with the Civil War and the period just before, and just after, that conflict. If anyone is going to visit museums, battlefields, National Military Parks, and so forth while on vacation this summer, please take plenty of photographs and then get those photographs to me so that I can include them in this newsletter!

I am cutting the column short this month to exhibit a large quantity of the Memorial Day photographs!

## 2018 Memorial Day Photographs









# The Texas **Union** Herald

The Texas **Union** Herald is published monthly by the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**. For official business, including editorial and article submission, the mailing address is as follows:

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Articles, news items, features, and the like are welcomed for publication in **The Texas Union Herald**. Deadline is normally the 1st of the month of the cover date of publication. Submissions may be handwritten, typewritten, or submitted in any of the popular computer formats (Microsoft Word, Open Office, Word Perfect, and ASCII). Please contact the editor for details.

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## Articles Needed!

If the members of the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18** do not want to be inundated with articles that were chosen by the editor (what he wants to see in the newsletter) then they need to start inputting items for inclusion in **The Texas Union Herald**. Tidbits about the Civil War, stories, articles, current news items, photographs, even commentaries are most welcome.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author. Get the idea onto paper (computer, etc.) and get it to the editor. He really can edit (rewrite, etc.) and you'll be surprised at just how well you can write!

If you have E-Mail capabilities, you can either include the information in the body of the message or put it in either Word format or ACSII ("txt") format. If, for some reason, you cannot do either, contact the editor to see if your particular word processor format can be handled.

If "hard" copy, make sure the copy is legible (can be read by someone else!). Typewritten, computer printed, even in Crayon on "Big Chief" tablet is acceptable. Just get the information in!

Even small (1 or 2 paragraphs) material, or photographs, can be used. That makes editing and publishing the newsletter easier since "fill" material is available for those little areas that seem to happen whenever an article is included in the publication.

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## July Meeting

The July 2018 meeting of the  
**Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18**  
**SUVCW**

Will be held on  
**Tuesday 17 July 2018**

At the  
**Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.**

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**There will be NO June meeting due  
to the 23 June  
Department of Texas SUVCW  
Encampment in Waco, Texas**

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## June Birthdays



General Robert Anderson  
14 June 1805



General Abner Doubleday  
26 June 1819



General Arthur McArthur, Jr.  
2 June 1845



General Samuel D. Sturgis  
11 June 1822



General Phillip Kearny  
2 June 1815



General Wesley Merritt  
16 June 1834



General Robert H. Milroy  
11 June 1816



Admiral David Dixon Porter  
8 June 1813



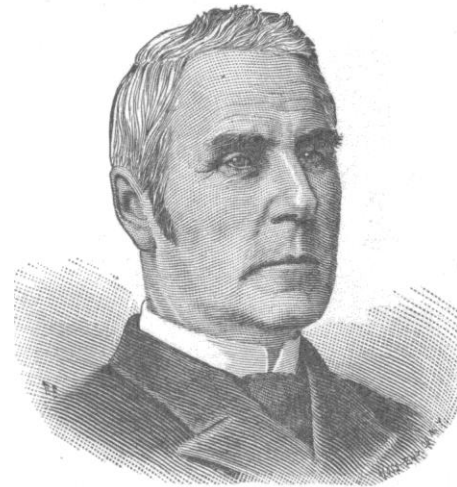
General James B. Ricketts  
21 June 1817

The following continues the serialization of the History of the Grand Army of the Republic as transcribed by Donald E. Darby Past Commander in Chief of the SUVCW. Some of the formatting does not come through all that well, so please ignore those places where the formatting is not exact!

### CHAPTER III

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The Reverend William J. Rutledge, now residing in Petersburg, Illinois, was born of a noted family in Virginia, June 24, 1830.



CHAPLAIN W. J. RUTLEDGE.

In 1835 he immigrated to Illinois, and at the age of twenty entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For over forty-seven years he has been laboring as preacher and chaplain, and is today the happy possessor of a strong body and vigorous intellect.

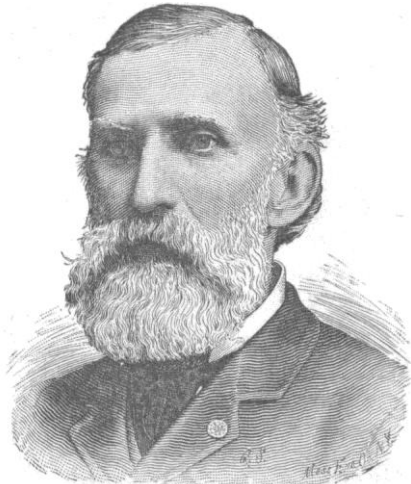
Upon the breaking out of the Rebellion he enlisted as Chaplain of the 14<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, and served the three-years term. One son, a boy of 16, enlisted in the Third Illinois Cavalry; another was a drummer-boy at the age of twelve.

Chaplain Rutledge was the tent-mate and bosom companion of Dr. Stephenson, after the latter joined this regiment in 1862. Their regiment formed part of Sherman's Expedition to Meridian, in February, 1864, and while upon this campaign, Chaplain Rutledge suggested to Major

Stephenson, that the soldiers so closely allied in the friendship of suffering would, when mustered out of the service, naturally desire some form of association that would preserve the friendships and the memories of their common trials and dangers.

As they talked together, on the march or in bivouac, this thought expanded into the widest fields of conjecture as to the capacity for good in such an organization of veterans, and they agreed that if spared they would together work out some such project.

After the close of their army service this subject formed the basis of their correspondence, until March, 1866, when Chaplain Rutledge and Dr. Stephenson, by appointment, in Springfield, Illinois, and spent some time with him in arranging a ritual for the proposed organization.



MAJOR A. A. NORTH.

Before this date, however, Dr. Stephenson had shown notes of a proposed ritual to persons in Springfield, and Major A.A. North, then a clerk in the drug store with which Dr. Stephenson was connected, was shown such drafts early in the Winter of 1865-'66 which frequently formed the subject of conversation.

Comrade Fred I. Dean, now of Fort Smith, Arkansas, states that in February, 1866, Dr. Stephenson asked his co-operation in writing out the rough notes of the ritual, and that then he and the business associates of Dr. Stephenson, Drs. Allen and Hamilton, were obligated in the Grand Army work.

There are naturally some differences in the statements of those now surviving, who participated in the preliminary work of the Grand Army of the Republic—differences occasioned largely by the necessity of relying on memory, after this lapse of time, for details of matters that did not then seem so important, and of which there are but meager records.

The following are known to have participated in the conferences in Springfield that finally resulted in the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic: Colonel John M. Snyder, Doctor James Hamilton, Major Robert M. Woods, Major Robert Allen, Chaplain William J. Rutledge, Colonel Martin Flood, Colonel Daniel Grass, Colonel Edward Prince, Captain John S. Phelps, Captain John A. Lightfoot, Captain (since Colonel) B.F. Smith, Brevet Major A.A. North, Captain Henry E. Howe, and Lieutenant (since Colonel) B.F. Hawks.

Meetings first held in the offices of Drs. Allen, Hamilton and Stephenson, and afterwards in the office of Colonel John M. Snyder, then Secretary to Governor Oglesby.

One of Dr. Stephenson's active associates at that time was Captain John S. Phelps, who enlisted as a private in Company B, 32d Illinois Infantry, and, at the age of 18 years, had been promoted to be First Lieutenant "For meritorious conduct at Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing." His interest in the matter was a strong and practical, and he urged Dr. Stephenson to at once make a beginning by effecting an organization in Springfield.

Captain Phelps also corresponded with the Soldiers and Sailors League in St. Louis, and obtained a copy of their ritual, portions of which were used for the Grand Army of the Republic.

The name of the organization had not been decided upon in March, and it is probable that the "work" of an Order started in 1865 in Missouri, "THE ADVANCE GUARD OF AMERICA" or "The Grand Army of Progress," suggested the present title.

When the ritual was finally deemed ready for printing, in order that due secrecy might be secured, Governor Oglesby, who had been consulted, suggested that it should be printed in Decatur by the proprietors of the Decatur *Tribune*, I.W. Coltrin and Joseph Prior, who, with their employees, had been in the military service.

After some correspondence with them on this subject, Captain Phelps was sent to Decatur to supervise the printing of the Ritual, first obligating Messrs. Coltrin and Prior and their compositors to secrecy.

Captain Phelps, during his stay in Decatur, also called on a number of his soldier friends, principally members of the 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry, and sought their co-operation.

While this work was under way, Dr. J.W. Routh, of Decatur, who was intimately acquainted with Major Stephenson, went to Springfield to make personal inquiries about the proposed organization, and he interested Captain M.F. Kanan in his mission. Together they called upon Major Stephenson, and this visit resulted in their determination to at once organize a Post in Decatur.

On the return of Dr. Routh and Captain Kanan, but a short time was required to secure signatures to an application for a charter; and, anxious to be the first to organize, they again went Springfield to present the application in person and arrange for the muster.

Accordingly, on the sixth day of April, 1866, Major Stephenson, assisted by Captain Phelps, organized at Decatur the first Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The charter reads as follows:

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC



DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS.

To all whom it may concern, greeting:  
 Know ye that the Commander of the Department of Illinois, reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism and fidelity of M.F. Kanan, G.R. Steele, Geo. H. Dunning, I.C. Pugh, J.H. Nale, J.T. Bishop, C. Reibsame, J.W. Routh, B.F. Sibley, I.N. Coltrin, Joseph Prior, and A. Toland, does, by the authority in him vested, empower and constitute them Charter Members of an Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be known as Post 1, of Decatur, District of Macon, Department of Illinois, and they are hereby constituted as said Post, and authorized to make By-Laws for the government of said Post, and to do and perform all acts necessary to conduct and carry on said organization in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Done at Springfield, Illinois, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1866.

**B.F. STEPHENSON**

**Commander of Department**

Robert M. Woods, *Adjutant-General*

The minutes for the first meeting read as follows:

“At an informal meeting held April 6, 1866, for the purpose of organizing an Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic the following-named persons were mustered by Major Stephenson and constituted Charter Members: I.C. Pugh, Geo. R. Steele, J.W. Routh, Jos. Prior, J.H. Nale, J.T. Bishop, G.H. Dunning, B.F. Sibley, M.F. Kanan, C. Reibsame, I.N. Coltrin, Aquilla Toland; when upon motion, the Encampment entered into as election of officers with the following result:

“OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT- Brigadier-General I.C. Pugh, Commandant District; - Lieutenant-Colonel J.H. Nale, District Quarter-Master; Dr. J.W. Routh, Adjutant.

“OFFICERS FOR THE POST- M.F. Kanan, Post Commander; G.R. Steele, Post Adjutant; G.H. Dunning, Post Quarter-Master; G. Reibsame, Officer of the Day; J.T. Bishop, Officer of the Guard; J.W. Routh, Post Surgeon; all of whom were duly mustered by Major Stephenson, who then declared the Encampment duly organized and ready for legislation of any and all business which might come before it, and assigned to it the POST OF HONOR as

DECATUR ENCAMPMENT No. 1.

“ On motion, a committee of two was appointed to procure a suitable room for the Encampment and report at the next regular meeting. Captains Kanan and Dunning, Committee.

“On motion Tuesday was decided upon as the night for regular meetings.

“On Motion adjourned to meet April 10, 1866.

“Signed, M.F. KANAN, P.C.

“G.R. Steele, P.A.”

At the meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>, N.G. Burns, Henry Gorman, N.E. Winholz, W.H. Andrews and W.H.B. Rowe, were mustered in due form, and thus became the first recruits after the organization of the Post.

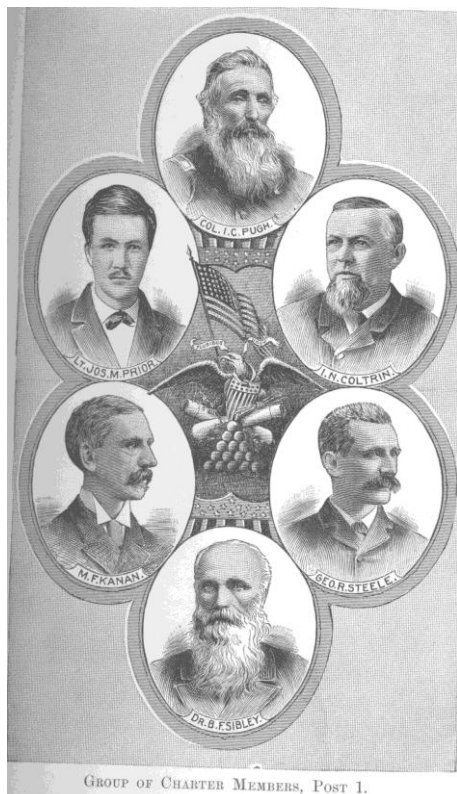
The following is the military record of the charter members of this Post:

RECORDS OF CHARTER MEMBERS OF POST ONE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS.

M.F. Kanan was born in the State of New York. Enlisted at Decatur, Illinois, July 27, 1861, as First Lieutenant, Company A, 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry, and served with his regiment in all Grant's campaigns in the West, among which were the capture of Forts Heiman, Henry, and Donelson, Corinth, and Vicksburg, being wounded at Donelson. He also participated in the battles of "Shiloh," "Hatchie," and the charge of Colonel I.C. Pugh's Brigade at Jackson, Mississippi, on July 12, 1862, when more than two-thirds of the entire Brigade were either killed or wounded. He was promoted to be a Captain for meritorious services at the battle of Shiloh; afterwards served on the staff of Major-General M.M. Crocker, and was for a time assigned by Major-General Jas. B. McPherson as Assistant Provost-Marshal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

He returned to his regiment in the Spring of 1864, and commanded the 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Veteran Battalion in the campaign against Atlanta. He resigned November 10, 1864, and was afterward employed in the Adjutant-General's Department at Springfield, Illinois, until the close of the war.

He is now (1888) serving his second term as Major of Decatur, and is a member of Post No. 141, Department of Illinois.



GROUP OF CHARTER MEMBERS, POST 1.



Geo. R. Steele was born in Springfield, Ohio, September 12, 1836; moved to Illinois in December, 1856; enlisted as Second Lieutenant, Company A, 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry, July 27, 1861, at Decatur, and served in the campaign which resulted in the capture of Forts Henry, Heiman and Donelson.

He served as Adjutant of his regiment during the battles of Shiloh, the advance on Corinth, occupation of Memphis, Tennessee, and the battle of Hatchie. In November, 1862, was appointed Captain and Aide-de-camp, and assigned to duty on the staff of Major-General James McPherson, commanding the 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, and took an active part in all of the campaigns of that Corps, including the marches, battles, and operations which resulted in the capture of Vicksburg.

In March, 1864, he accompanied Major-General McPherson to Huntsville, Alabama, when that General was assigned to command of the "Army of the Tennessee," and served on his staff during 1864, where General McPherson was killed. By order of General W.T. Sherman he accompanied the remains of General McPherson to their last resting-place at Clyde, Ohio.

He was afterwards assigned to duty as Aide-de-camp to Major-General Frank P. Blair, who succeeded to command of the 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.

He served with General Blair on Sherman's March to the Sea, the occupation of Savannah, Georgia, the campaign through the Carolinas, and the occupation of Columbia, South Carolina, and Raleigh, North Carolina. Brevetted Major, United States Volunteers, March 13, 1865; was present at the meeting of Generals Sherman and Johnston, April 17, 1865, near Raleigh, North Carolina, where negotiations were had for the surrender of Johnston's Army.

He was present and took part in the organization of the "Society of the Army of the Tennessee," in the State Capitol building at Raleigh, North Carolina, April 14, 1865. Participated in the "Grand Review" at Washington, D.C., and after the muster-out of the troops of the 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, at Louisville, Kentucky, was assigned to duty with General Blair at St. Louis, Missouri, and was mustered out of the military service November 22, 1865.

Has since resided at Decatur, Illinois, and is now (1888) Treasurer of Macon County, Illinois, an active Grand Army man, and a charter member of Post No. 141, Department of Illinois.

Geo. H. Dunning entered the Army from Decatur, as Captain, Company A, 21<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry (Grant's Regiment), May 17, 1861 serving until October 24, 1862, when, on account of ill health, he resigned, and has since died.

Isaac C. Pugh was a veteran of the Black Hawk and Mexican Wars.

He entered the three months service April 16, 1861, as Captain of Company A, 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. At the expiration of this term he returned to Decatur, Illinois, and organized the 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry, which regiment served in the Army of the Tennessee, being actively engaged in all campaigns of that army.

He mustered out August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1864, and was brevetted Brigadier-General of Volunteers, March 10, 1865. After his muster-out he served four years as Clerk of Macon County, Illinois, and was appointed Postmaster at Decatur during President Grant's administration. He died while holding that position.

John H. Nale entered the service July 27, 1861, as Captain, Company A, 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry, and was in active service with his regiment during all of its marches and engagements.

Promoted to Major, April 8, 1862, Lieutenant-Colonel, December 26, 1862; mustered-out August 20, 1864.

When the last call was made for troops he re-enlisted as Captain, Company K, 152d Illinois Infantry, and was mustered -out as Major at the close of the war. He then located at Decatur, Illinois, and afterward moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he dies of yellow fever.

J.T. Bishop entered the service as First Lieutenant, company I, 116<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, September 6, 1862; was promoted to Captain, April 25, 1863; served in the 15<sup>th</sup> (Logan's) Corps; was in the campaign of Grant which resulted in the capture of Vicksburg; with Sherman at Chattanooga, Tennessee, participating in the battle of Missionary Ridge and the march to Knoxville to the relief of Burnside's command. Resigned March 30, 1864, and returned to Decatur; subsequently moved to the East, and is Secretary of the Oil Companies at Bradford, Pennsylvania, and a member of Post No. 141, Department of Pennsylvania.

Christian Riebsame, a native of Rhenish, Bavaria, Germany, enlisted as private in Company B, 116<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, August 11, 1862; was promoted to Sergeant, then First Lieutenant, January 1863, and Captain, January 28, 1864. His regiment was assigned to the 2d Division of the 15<sup>th</sup> (Logan's) Corps, and participated in all the battles and marches of that corps from Memphis in 1862 to Bentonville, North Carolina, 1865, including Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Resaca, Dallas, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, July 22, and 28, 1864, Sherman's March to the Sea, the Storming of Fort McAllister, the Campaign through North Carolina, and the capture of Columbia, South Carolina

Was in the Grand Review at Washington D.C., and was mustered-out June 7, 1865.

He returned to Decatur, and resided there until 1869, when he moved to Bloomington, Illinois. He is very active in all matters of interest to the comrades of the late war, is a life member of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, a pioneer of the North American Turners-bund of St. Louis, and a member of Post No. 146, Bloomington, Department of Illinois.

J.W. Routh enlisted as Corporal in Company A, 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry, July 27, 1861 from Decatur, Illinois.

Served with his company at the capture of Forts Heiman, Henry, and Donelson; was then promoted to Hospital Steward, and served as such during his term of enlistment.

During the Vicksburg campaign, and after the capture of that city, Comrade Routh served as Hospital steward of a General Field Hospital in charge of Dr. B.F. Stephenson; they became personal friends, and Dr. Routh was among the first to whom Dr. Stephenson confided his project for the organization of a society of the soldiers and sailors of the war of the rebellion.

Dr. Routh was muster-out with his regiment, August 10, 1864. He practiced medicine in Decatur for several years, then removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he died in 1886.

B.F. Sibley was a practicing physician in Decatur at the time of the breaking out of the war; enlisted in the 21<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry, acting as Surgeon. Resigned in the fall of

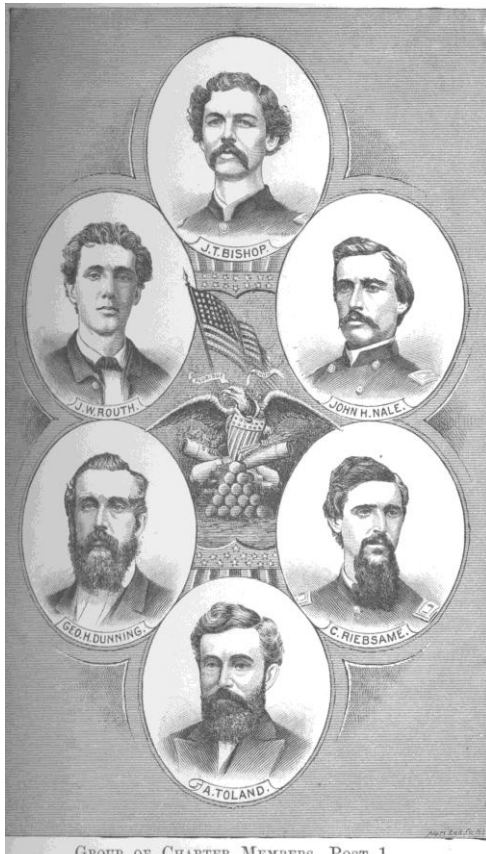
1862 on account of ill health; returned to Decatur, where he now resides and continues the practice of his profession.

Isaac N. Coltrin entered the service June 23, 1862, from Clinton, Illinois, in Company E, 66<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. During its terms of service this regiment was with the Army of Virginia and of the Potomac. He was mustered-out in September, 1862, and then settled in Decatur. He, with Joseph M. Prior, commenced publication of the Decatur *Tribune*. They printed the first ritual for the Grand Army of the Republic. He still lives in Decatur, and is a practical printer in the office of the Decatur *Republican*.

Joseph M. Prior entered the service as First Sergeant, Company e, 68<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, May 30, 1862, from Clinton, Illinois; was mustered-out in September, 1862, settling in Decatur; and assisted in printing the first ritual. He subsequently moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, where he died.

Aquilla Toland enlisted private, Company E, 17<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, in London, Ohio, at the first call for troops to serve three months. He and a friend were the first to enroll their names as volunteers in Madison County, Illinois. After the expiration of his term of enlistment he re-enlisted in Company A, 118<sup>th</sup> Regular Ohio Infantry; was promoted to be First Lieutenant, and was much of the time in command of his company on account of the physical disability of his captain.

After having been muster-out of the service, he returned to London, Ohio; subsequently moved to Decatur; took an active part in the organization of Post One, and always contributed financially to the relief of soldiers in distress. Purchasing a farm some 12 or 15 miles northwest from Decatur, he engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death in 1878.



GROUP OF CHARTER MEMBERS, POST 1.

## THE RITUAL

IN PREPARING THE RITUAL, Major Stephenson evidently thought that all of his ideas in relation to the objects to be accomplished by the organization should be fully elaborated. He had added suggestions of others until the ritual became exceedingly lengthy; the commander's charge alone contained nearly two thousand words, equal to four of these pages. Prior to the organization of the Decatur Post, on the request of Major Stephenson, a committee, consisting of Dr. Routh, M.F. Kanan, J.T. Bishop, George R. Steele, and G.H. Dunning, read over the MSS, of the ritual, to suggest amendments, but on April 18, 1866, Major Stephenson again referred to the matter as follows:

*Office of Command*  
*Rep. 200*  
*Springfield April 18 1866*

*Read then*  
*You are hereby*  
*appointed & empowered to draft constitution*  
*& By-laws etc to advise & perfect the ritual of*  
*the order of Grand Army of the Republic*  
*at your earliest convenience and report*  
*the same within five weeks*

*Geo G. Stephens*  
*Comdr in Chief*

## ORGANIZATION

This letter was read to the Post, and comrades Bishop, Dunning, Mory, Sibley and Glass were constituted a committee to comply with the request. Comrades Dunning,

Nale and Steele were appointed a committee to draft regulations (by-laws) for the Post. Up to this date no constitution had been drafted, though the general plans had been discussed.

On April 29, Major Stephenson again wrote Captain Kanan, urging him either to send immediately, or personally take a copy of the constitution and ritual to Springfield, "for comparison with a draft being made," there, that they might "cull and select the best of both."

The minutes of May 9 note a report from the committee that "the regulations and ritual had been presented to Department Headquarters and accepted." The original ritual had been revised, as one of the committee has since stated, by the free use of paste and scissors-cutting out nearly one-half of the commander's charge.

## CONSTITUTION

The Constitution thus agreed upon was printed in Springfield and copies sent to Decatur Post on May 15, followed shortly after by copies of the revised ritual.

The plan of organization provided for –

1<sup>st</sup>- PRECINCT ORGANIZATIONS, to be known as Post No. \_\_ (name of city, town, township, ward, or precinct). The officers to be Post Commander, Adjutant, and Quartermaster (presumably by election), and "an Officer of the Day and such other officers as may be necessary for the transaction of business, to be detailed by the commanding officer.

2<sup>d</sup>-COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS-, to be known as District of (name of county), with a District Commander, Assistant Adjutant General and District Quartermaster.

3<sup>d</sup>- STATE ORGANIZATIONS- To be known as Department of (name of State). Officers- Department Commander, Adjutant-General, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Quartermaster-General.

4<sup>th</sup>- NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, to be known as "THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC." The officers to be a Commanding officer, adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General.

In the constitution printed in May, the letters U.S.A. are not appended to the title, but were used in signatures to documents at that time and later making the title read "Grand Army of the Republic, U.S.A.

## REPRESENTATION

Posts were to have no direct representation in the Department Encampment. The County or District Organization was to be composed of one delegate for every ten members of the Grand Army of the District. The District Organization had general supervision of Posts, and the establishment of new Posts. Each District was entitled to one delegate in the Department Organization, which was to meet once a year.

The NATIONAL ORGANIZATION was composed of two delegates from each Department. The constitution, as amended by the convention at Springfield, July 12, 1866, made no change in the mode or ratio of representation as above given, but provided for additional officers, as follows:

In the National Organization, An Assistant Commanding Officer, Surgeon-General and Chaplain. In Departments, An Assistant Department Commander, Surgeon-General and Chaplain. In Posts, An Assistant Post Commander, Post Surgeon, Post Chaplain, Officer of the Day and Officer of the Guard. Officers of Posts were to be elected annually at the last meeting in December.

The Declaration of Principles in the Constitution, written by Adjutant-General Robert M. Woods, read as follows:

## CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

### ARTICLE I.

#### Declaration of Principles

*Section 1.* The soldiers of the Volunteer Army of the United States, during the Rebellion 1861-5, actuated by the impulses and convictions of patriotism and of eternal right, and combined in the strong bands of fellowship and unity by the toils, the dangers, and the victories of a long and vigorously waged war, feel themselves called upon to declare, in definite form of words and in determined co-operative action, those principles and rules which should guide the earnest patriot, the enlightened freeman, and the Christian citizen in his course of action; and to agree upon those plans and laws which should govern them in mind and systematic working method with which, in some measure, shall be effected and preservation of the grand results of the war, the fruits of their labor and toil, so as to benefit the deserving and worthy.

*Sec. 2.* The results which are designed to be accomplished by this organization are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup>. Then preservation of those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together, with the strong cords of love and affection, the comrades in arms of many battles, sieges and marches.

2<sup>nd</sup>. To make these ties available in works and results of kindness of favor and material aid to those in need of assistance.

3<sup>rd</sup>. To make provision, where it is not already done, for the support, care and education of soldiers' orphans, and for the maintenance of the widows of deceased soldiers.

4<sup>th</sup>. For the protection and assistance of disabled soldiers, whether by wounds, sickness, old age or misfortune.

5<sup>th</sup>. For the establishment and defense of the late soldiery of the United States, morally, socially, and politically, with a view to inculcate a proper appreciation of their services to the country, and to a recognition of such services and claims by the American people.

To this section the National Encampment, in Philadelphia, January, 1868, added: But this Association does not design to make nominations for office or to use its influence as a secret organization for partisan purposes.

The Indianapolis Convention added the word "sailors" where omitted in the Springfield Constitution, and also added a new section, from the Constitution of the "Loyal Legion," as follows:

6<sup>th</sup>. The maintenance of true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon paramount respect for, and fidelity to, the national constitution and laws, manifested by the discountenancing of whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason, or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions, together with a defense of universal liberty, equal rights and justice to all men.

Changes were made in the titles of a number of officers as Grand Commander for Department Commander, and Senior and Junior Vice Post Commanders for Assistant Post Commanders.

In May, 1869, the present form of Rules and Regulations was adopted.

Although a number of veterans had been obligated at the secret conferences held in Springfield, Post 2 had not been formally organized, owing to fears expressed by Major Stephenson that other parties, who were not friendly to himself, would endeavor to secure control of the organization.

No records have been preserved of the preliminary meetings of Post No. 2, but the minutes of July 10, 1866, refer to action taken at previous meetings without specifying the dates when they were held. General Webber recorded the date of organization in April. The charter members were, as appears by the minutes, General T.S. Mather, E.S. Johnson, General John Cook, Colonel George t. Allen, Major B.F. Stephenson, Colonel John M. Snyder, Lieutenant-Colonel J.M. Green, Major Robert Allen, Major J.W. Bice, Major William T. Prescott, Major Robert M. Woods, Captain J.S. Burke, Captain G.S. Dana, Captain P.W. Harts, Captain O.S. Webster, Major Alfred A. North, Captain John A. Lightfoot, Captain L.W. Shepard, Lieutenant William E. Fitzhugh, Lieutenant L. W. Rosette, Surgeon M.T. Hutson, E.H. Errickson, \_\_\_\_\_ Hatch, L.M. Philips, Captain George R. Webber, John C. Spriggs, Norman B. Ames.

General T.S. Mather was elected Post Commander; E.S. Johnson, Adjutant; W.E. Fitzhugh, Officer of the Day; William Prescott, Quartermaster.

Delegates to State Convention- John Cook, John M. King, Alfred A. North, H. Vanmeter, M.J. Green, W.T. Prescott, I.N. Hayie, E.S. Johnson, J.W. Bice, L.W. Shepard, T.S. Mather, George T. Allen, S.M. Shoup, Robert Allen, John McConnell.

Alternates- J.V. Redenburg, H.M. Alden, G.S. Dana, L.W. Rosette, P.W. Harts, J.S. Burke, \_\_\_\_\_ Bennett, P.H. Able, James Irwin, O.S. Webster.

Dr. George T. Allen, of this Post, had taken a very active interest in the establishment of a Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and in 1865 issued a very strong appeal to the Ladies' Aid Organization of the State for the funds required for this project.

A very pleasant episode in the history of Post No. 2 occurred in November , 1866, when the members, accompanied by a number of friends, called upon Dr. Stephenson at his office and presented him with a beautiful gold-headed cane, inscribed:

*"From the sons of the G.A.R .to the father, B.F. Stephenson, November, 1866.*

Dr. Stephenson responded as follows:

MY COMRADES, MY NEIGHBORS AND MY FELLOW CITIZENS:- I need not say to you that I am exceedingly grateful for this beautiful present, valuable as it is of itself but ten thousand times more so on account of its donors. I do not receive it as a testimonial to my supposed merits, but as an acknowledgment of your respect for an appreciation of the G.A.R. which I had the distinguished honor to originate and of which I am for the present the acknowledged head. As such I receive it, and as such I will ever treasure it. It is more esteemed and appreciated by me on account of its timely presentation, receiving it as a token of your esteem and regard for our benevolent Order, just as I have descended the hill of life, crossed its summit and commence the slippery and treacherous descent of the last declivity, that which leads us on the brink of the narrow tomb. In making this last descent of life there is nothing so faithful and constantly the support of an old man as his staff. Friends and relations may forsake him, but his staff is

always at his side. This shall be my stay the remainder of my days, let them be many or few, let them be dark and dreary or light and joyous, and when I bid you a lasting farewell and commit my little ones to the kind consideration of you, my comrades of the G.A.R., this testimonial shall be my last will and testament bequeathed to my issue as a rich legacy; and in after years, my comrades, when I look back on this present moment this will remind me of your many deeds of valor, of the bloody fields won by your prowess. I shall hear the roar of your deadly artillery, the terrible crash and rattle of your muskets, the ringing and clashing of your sabres when you crossed them with those of the enemy, and I shall again see the many field covered with the dead and wounded of our comrades, the ground made red with their heart's blood, and hear the faint cry for water to sustain the fast ebbing life stream.

The many sacred messages whispered in my ear, fit only to be conveyed by angels, too sacred for my mortal ears, my dying comrades, will be remembered.

It will also remind me of the groan of a gray-headed sire on learning the sad news, indescribable look of despair of the widow on learning that her last prop was taken from her. In it the shriek of a newly made bride, and the suppressed anguish of the betrothed maiden, and also of the piteous wail of the bereaved mother as with quivering lips she imparted the sad news to the little ones that are fatherless and perhaps homeless.

But my comrades, it shall also remind me that we have not forgotten our dead comrades. That by our glorious Order, whose ranks are as firm as the wood of life that composes this stem, and whose principles are as pure as the gold that encircles its head, the pathway of the old gray-headed sire is smoothed to his grave.

The lone widow is comforted an sustained, the orphans are fed, clothed and educated; society is compelled to give them a home alike comfortable and respectable. Traitors are made to hide their deformed heads and no man dare lift up hand and voice against this county. May this organization last as long as there is a Union soldier in the United States and as long as the fibres of this wood hold together.

B.F. STEPHENSON

Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, was born in Wayne county, Illinois, October 30, 1822.

In 1825 his parents moved to Sangamon county, where he grew to manhood, strong in body, but with meager opportunities for obtaining an education. He was unable to follow the bent of his inclination, which was to study medicine, until he had attained his majority.

His first course of study was with his brother, Dr. William Stephenson, at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He afterwards attended lectures at Columbus, Ohio, and graduated in the class of 1849-'50 from Rush Medical College, Chicago. He commended the practice of his profession at Petersburg, Illinois, and on March 30, 1855, was married in Springfield to Barbara B. Moore.

Upon the organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, May 25, 1861, Dr. Stephenson was elected Surgeon by the officers and enlisted men of the regiment, voting under the laws of Illinois, but he was not commissioned, and Dr. G.T. Allen , of Alton, was mustered in that position.

Dr. Allen was afterward promoted to be Brigade-Surgeon, and a vacancy was filled by the appointment of Dr. Stephenson, who was mustered in at Pittsburg Landing, April 7, 1862.

Dr. Stephenson served with the regiment in its arduous campaigns until June 26, 1864, when the three-year term of the regiment expired, and he was mustered-out. The regiment was at that time re-organized by veteran re-enlistment under Colonel Cyrus Hall, who had succeeded Colonel Palmer upon promotion of the latter to Brigadier-General.

Dr. Stephenson returned to Springfield, where a warm personal friend, the Hon. Jesse K. Dubois, secured him an interest in the firm of D.K. Gold & Co., druggists.

He remained one year with this firm, and then formed a partnership with Dr. Allen, above referred to, and Dr. James Hamilton. This connection was dissolved upon the appointment of Dr. Allen as United States Consul to Moscow by President Grant.

Dr. Stephenson became for a time a popular and successful practitioner. With his opportunities he should have soon secured a lucrative practice, but he lacked the tenacity of purpose and thorough devotion to his profession so necessary to success, was inclined to put off duties and responsibilities that were in any way unpleasant. He was a poor manager in financial affairs, always feeling rich with a few dollars in hand, and evidently caring little when he had none. He had formed many strong friendships, and friends tried often to impress upon him the necessity of his being more careful and methodical, but he preferred letting the morrow care for itself.

No matter what troubles assailed him his fund of good nature was unfailing, and to the last he was always sanguine of great results from some projected enterprise.

He was easily moved by tales of distress, and freely gave to the poor his own services and orders for medicines without thought of recompense.

When, after months of consideration, the Grand Army was actually organized, its work became uppermost in his thoughts and influenced all his actions. His professional practice became, more than ever, a secondary consideration, and this seriously effected his usefulness as a physician, without, in the end, bringing him any substantial returns for sacrifices made or the attendant discomforts of himself and his family.

And then, after trials which perhaps another man more cold-blooded or less sanguine than himself could have better borne, it was to him a grievous disappointment when the representatives of the Grand Army, assembled at Springfield to form a Department organizations, selected another for the highest honors of the Order he had founded.

A similar disappointment awaited him in Indianapolis, when the National Encampment was formed, and though Major Stephenson then accepted a subordinate position, as Adjutant-General, he felt until his death that he had been slighted by his comrades in these instances.

He was yet to meet another and more bitter disappointment, for in the closing years of his life, through troubles of mind and illness of body that unfitted him for the delicate duties of his profession, it seemed as though his labors and those of his colleagues were fruitless, as the "Grand Army," had practically disappeared from public view in the west. In his own State, though the Department maintained a nominal existence, there was hardly a Post in active operation; in neighboring States they were entirely

dead; and, while Department organizations were maintained in the east, even there Posts had disbanded by the score.

He had dreamed of a grand organization of veterans, moving *en masse*, a potent influence in molding and fostering public sentiment in favor of those who had "borne the battle," that should secure recognition of their services in places of honor and profit; and, while preserving and strengthening the bonds of comradeship, should be a help to all who had followed the flag, and to the widows and orphans of the dead, who needed a helping hand and sympathizing friend.

Years were to pass before the Grand Army of the Republic should reach a position in any degree fulfilling the fondly cherished belief of its founder- years that were to test the faith and constancy of the few, and show the weakness of the many who had failed to comprehend the principles of the Order, and measured these only by personal desires or as a means for their own advancement.

After years of unrequited toil, disabled, and discouraged, Dr. Stephenson removed his family from Springfield to the old home at Petersburg. He died at Rock Creek, Menard county, Illinois, August 30, 1871, in his 49<sup>th</sup> year.

He was buried in the cemetery at Rock Creek, and his remains there rested until August 29, 1882, when they were removed to Petersburg, and interred in the Soldiers Plot of Rose Hill Cemetery, on the banks of the Sangamon river, one mile east of Petersburg.

The solemn services of re-interment were conducted by Estill Post No. 71, G.A.R. of Petersburg; the widow, a son and two daughters being present.

The procession was under the charge of Colonel Cornelius Rourke, Marshal.

The pall-bearers were John J. Baker, Thomas Kearus, P.S. Scott, Joseph Deerwester, J.W. Biggs, and Richard Goodsell.

The services over the grave were in accordance with the Grand Army ritual.

After the coffin had been lowered into the grave the Reverend Francis Springer, Chaplain, pronounced the following:

"To another of our companions in the journey of earthly existence is the work of life done; the march has been made, journey is ended and the grave now holds the form of a comrade whom on earth we shall not see again.

"We cherish the memory and honor the name of our departed brother, B.F. Stephenson, because he was worthy as a countryman, neighbor and friend. But today we call to mind, also, the position and service of our departed brother as one of the great family of patriotic citizens who periled property and life in the cause of our glorious country.

"This service of re-burial is conducted in the name of the Grand Army of the Republic, one purpose of whose organization is to perpetuate the recollection, and widen the sphere of influence, which justly belong to that achievement whereby the United States of America has once more demonstrated the necessity of national unity, and the superiority of our democratic republic over every other form of government known to earth. America is the home of a new impulse to the world's civilization upon the basis of equality, Christian fraternity and rational liberty, regulated by law emanating from the people. Our comrade bore a part in that grand movement.

Judge James A. Matheny, of Springfield, spoke as follows:

"I am here today with the single purpose of laying a sprig of "Immortelle" upon the grave of our departed comrade. He was a companion of my youth, the friend of my manhood. Together we commenced to climb life's upward pathway, but ere we reached the summit, he, wearying of the burden laid himself down to rest.

"As we buried our comrade, the grave covered more than his pulseless form- glad hopes that made bright the future grand thoughts that would have left their impress on the minds of men- great purposes to be achieved- a lofty ambition to be realized; these, all these we buried with him.

"The world is full of over-estimated men. The graveyard is peopled with under-estimated men. It was the misfortune of our comrade to be numbered with the latter. Thousands infinitely his inferior have written their names in imperishable characters on the pages of our country's history. Struggle as he did, and labor, as he might, no compensating reward ever came. When abundant success seemed assured and he stretched forth his hand to seize the coveted fruit, he grasped only "Dead Sea apples," of ashes and bitterness.

"Success in life is one of earth's strangest mysteries. To some it comes unheralded, and unsought for, and in too many instances undeserved. Others labor for it and labor even in vain, dying with every aspiration unsatisfied, and every reasonable hope unfulfilled. So died our comrade.

"It was an expressive saying of the ancients that "Justice traveled with leaded wings," meaning that though delayed, its coming was inevitable and sure. I have faith to believe that ample justice will yet be done to our departed comrade, that his memory will be rescued from darkness fast closing around it, and his name recorded, where it should be, on the scroll of fame.

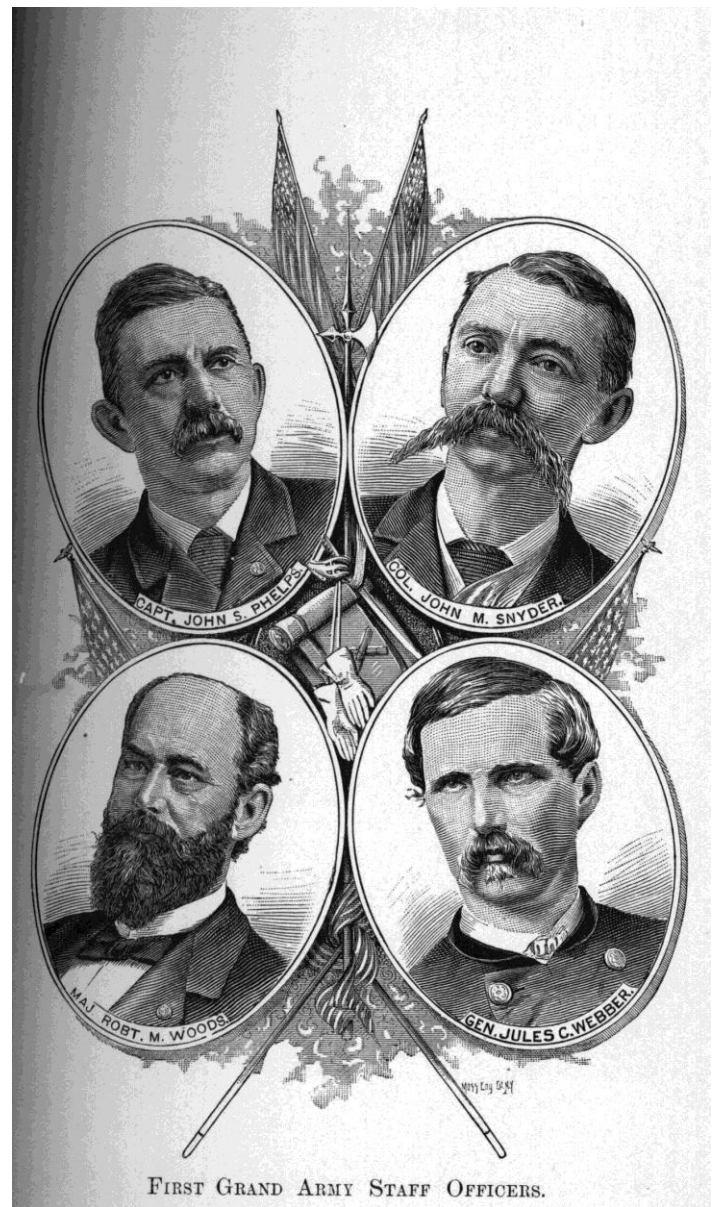
"Some one has said that he would much rather that posterity should ask why they did not raise a monument to his memory than to ask why they did.

"I do not know that any marble shaft will ever tower aloft over the spot where sleeps our comrade and friend, but I do know that he built for himself a monument more glorious than marble or granite, and yet that unrelenting fate that ever pursued him, robbing him of well nigh all that was justly his due, is still at its relentless work. The thousands who annually meet at the reunions of the Grand Army of the Republic give no thought to the heart that nurtured and to the brain that conceived the grand idea of a Brotherhood of Soldiers.

"When this thought first came to our comrade his whole soul was filled with the grand conception. Without rest or weariness his every energy was devoted to the accomplishment of the grand design. With a patriotic inspiration he saw clearly the great good to be attained. He felt that he was erecting an altar upon which the fire of love for the whole union would burn and burn forever. He saw with prophetic vision the Star Spangled Banner of a nation – not a confederation of discordant States, but a nation's banner- unfurled to the breeze, and with fancy's ear he heard the tramp, tramp of the million soldiers of the Grand Army as they gathered beneath it to shield and defend it from every harm.

"My friends, how well he read the future! His glad anticipations are more than realized. The camp fires of the

Grand Army are burning from ocean to ocean. Thousands



To be continued next month.

